

GOVERNMENT

SIKKIM



GAZETTE

**EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

Gangtok

Wednesday 07th October, 2020

No. 226

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HOME DEPARTMENT
TASHILING SECRETARIAT
GANGTOK**

No. 59/Home/2020

Dated:- 30.09.2020

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India has notified Guidelines on Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP vide notification F.NO. 19/17/2018- Livelihood dated 26.02.2019 to be implemented through Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (hereinafter referred to as MoTA), Government of India in collaboration with State Government Departments or agencies;

Now therefore, the State Government, hereby, notifies that the Department of Science and Technology shall be the State Nodal Department and the Department of Cooperation shall be the Project Implementing Department having role and responsibility to implement the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Vikas Yojana (herein after referred to as PMVDVY) as per Yojana's guidelines.

The State government further notifies that there shall be a State Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee (herein after referred to as SLCMC) headed by the Chief Secretary, & District Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee (herein after referred to DLCMC) in each district headed by District Collector. The constitution of the Committee shall be as under:

1. State Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee (SLCMC)

SLCMC shall be constituted with following members namely:

(i) Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim	Chairman
(ii) Principal Secretary, Forest Environment & Wild Life Department	Member
(iii) Principal Secretary, Rural Dev. Deptt.	Member
(iv) Secretary, Horticulture Department	Member
(v) Secretary, Agriculture Department	Member
(vi) Secretary, Social Justice & Welfare Deptt.	Member
(vii) Secretary, Commerce & Industries Deptt.	Member
(viii) Secretary, Cooperation Department	Executive Member
(ix) Secretary, Science and Tech. Department	Member Secretary

Terms of Reference

The SLCMC shall meet at least once after every six months to review and monitor (i) overall progress made in the implementation of the Scheme; (ii) compliance of norms; (iii) supervise coordination amongst different stakeholders & issue directions and (iv) conduct physical verification by itself or assign the responsibility to any third party like National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) or Department of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring & Evaluation (DESME).

II. District Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DLCMC)

The DLCMC for East, West, North and South Districts of Sikkim shall be constituted comprising of following members namely:

(i) District Collector	Chairman
(ii) Joint Director Agriculture Deptt	Member
(iii) Joint Director Horticulture Deptt	Member
(iv) Divisional Forest Officer Territorial, Forest	Member
(v) Project Director, Social Justice & Welfare Deptt	Member
(vi) Additional District Collector (Dev), RDD	Member
(vii) General Manager, DIC, Jorethang /Gangtok	Member
(viii) Joint Director, Department of Science & Technology	Member
(ix) Joint Registrar, Cooperation Deptt (District Head)	Member Secretary

Terms of Reference

DLCMC shall be responsible for:

- (i) Coordinating activities associated with implementation of PM-VDVY in the district by the Project Implementing Agency at the District.
- (ii) Monitoring progress by holding review meeting at least once in every three months or as demanded for effective implementation of the Yojana.
- (iii) Conduct and inspection of VDKV groups or sites for verification or assessment of progress.

And whereas, the state government further notify that, the PMVDVY shall be implemented as per the Yojana's guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and additional guidelines enclosed as Annexure -'A'.

There shall be Co-project Implementing Agency and line departments to facilitate implementation of the project as indicated in para (5 and 6) respectively in the operational guidelines.

The operation of this scheme shall come into force with immediate effect.

BY ORDER IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR

**CHIEF SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

ANNEXURE - 'A'

GUIDELINES

1. About the Scheme

Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Vikas Yojana (here in after refer to as PMVDVY) is a scheme aimed at marketing of Minor Forest Produce (hereinafter referred to as MFP) through Minimum Support Price (hereinafter referred to as MSP) and development of value chain for MFP launched and notified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India on 26.2.2019.

The PMVDVY guideline mandates the scheme to be implemented by the Project Implementing Agencies (PIA) under the supervision of the State Nodal Department and through market centric and entrepreneurial approach. It involves formation of 15 Self Help Group (SHG) and such other groups to aggregate into clusters known as Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) with at least 20 members in each SHG having corpus fund of Rs 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousands) only for forming micro enterprises to produce easily marketable, high quality, value added forest based products and position the produce as unique brand. TRIFED will buy finished products for marketing as per its commercial requirement under TRIBES India Van Dhan Natural Branding to fulfill the objective of each VDK achieving Rs. 1.00 crore turnover.

In Sikkim, it is proposed to initially establish 80 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVK) in the four districts of Sikkim. District wise break up VDK centers identified for implementing PMVDVY are as under:

DISTRICT	Number of VDK
East	23
North	16
South	19
West	22
SIKKIM	80

In the first phase TRIFED funds (100% Grants) Rs. 1.00 lakhs per SHG, i.e. Rs 15.00 lakhs per VDK for training, equipments, etc., i.e. 80 VDK X Rs 15.00 lakhs = Rs 12.00 crores Sikkim will receive initially. State Rural Development Department shall make arrangement to provide operational premises and other facilities including infrastructure component in scheme Minimum Support Price (hereinafter referred as MPS) for Minor Forest Produce (hereinafter referred to as MFP) for enhancement of Village Haats (*Collection centers*) and Warehouses under schemes like MGNREGA.

After accomplishment of first phase activities like Advocacy, training and value addition, creation of institution support, marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value Chain in coordination with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), a unit of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and input on Technological innovation linkages available with the National Innovation Foundations, Research and Development institutions and the Department of Science & Technology shall be taken up as per the guidelines.

2. Component of the Scheme and description of expenditure

Component of the scheme and description of expenditure on Grant from TRIFED involves cost on;

- (i) Setting up a revolving fund: Procurement, using the revolving fund, of notified MFPs at the declared price in case the market price falls below the notice MSP and recuperation of losses, if any, sustained by the revolving fund;
- (ii) Support for establishment of infrastructure including modernization of *Haatbajars*, setting up primary aggregation / storage facilities;
- (iii) Supporting improvement in income generation through training on gathering, storing and value addition to MFP under PMVDVY.

3. Objective of the Scheme

- (i) To mobilize communities at cluster level and facilitate capacity building, hand holding, infrastructure creation and MSP support to realize economy out of MFP's, traditional art and crafts there by supporting rural livelihood.
- (ii) To create employment opportunities among different tribal and other communities by way of self employment under MSME sector.
- (iii) To facilitate marketing linkage for MFP with other agricultural produce besides promoting local art and craft on indigenous scale.
- (iv) To empower about 24000 families of the state towards commercial cultivation, harvesting and value addition of MFP and other natural resources.
- (v) To set up value chain development network of MFP by linking with different state and national level agencies, banks for quality production, processing and marketing of different produce.

For implementing the PMVDVY, Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items listed and recommended as eligible for MSP by the MoTA shall be accorded priority together with traditionally practiced and traded items selected for yojna from Forest & farms like (1) Wild Honey (2) Cane & Bamboo (3) Hill Grass/broom (Kuchho or Phul Jharoo) (4) Nakima (5) Lapsi (*C. Axillaris*) (6) Large Cardamom (7) Medicinal Plants like turmeric and ginger (8) Satuwa (*Paris polyphylla*) (9) Dalle Khorsani (Cherry Pepper) (10) Tapoica (11) Peach (12) Plum (13) timbur (*Sichuan pepper*) (14) Kabra (15) Bhakimlo (*Rhus Chinenses*) (16) Sea Buck Thorn (*Khangchenberry*) etc depending on climatic and altitudinal conditions

The following operational guidelines to facilitate the effective implementation of PMVDVY in the State of Sikkim in line with the principal guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India as follows:-

1. Nodal Department and Project Implementing Agency (Department)

The Department of Science and Technology shall be the State Nodal Department or Agency having supervisory role over implementing activities of the Project Implementing Department i.e. the Department of Cooperation. All kinds of interaction and correspondence with funding Department at the centre or with line departments or agencies including submission of progress report, annual reports etc. shall be the primary responsibility of the Nodal Department.

The Department of Science & Technology in Sikkim with its infrastructure, facilities and long standing linkages with National Innovation Foundation (NIF), Research and Development Institutions, Indian Institute of Technology, National Institute of Technology Universities, colleges across the nation has the capability in providing scientific and technological information and support to the VDKVs in areas like (i) Biological study reports on MFP, its presence in Sikkim, and authentication of commercial viability (ii) Arrangement of transfer of new low cost modern technology available across the country with the premier institutions to potential

entrepreneurs and industries (iii) Advantage of convergence with programmes or schemes of NABARD, Ministry of Small & Medium Enterprises for lateral entrepreneurial and market development of VDKVs during the stages of Collection (Technology on preservation or increasing storage life), value addition i.e selection of manufacturing and packaging technology, etc.

Role & responsibility of the Nodal Department

The role & responsibility of the Nodal Department are as under:

- (i) Collection of VDKV proposals and preparation of state level projects for further submission to TRIFED as per the guidelines of Government of India.
- (ii) Receive fund from the TRIFED, and the State Government and transfer of fund received under the scheme to the Project Implementing Agency (Department of Co-operation, Government of Sikkim) within 15 days from the date of receipt of fund.
- (iii) Necessary coordination and convergence with line department or technical agencies like (a) Forest Environment & Wild Life Department (b) Rural Development Department (c) Horticulture Department (d) Agriculture Department (e) Social Justice & Welfare Deptt. (f) Commerce & Industries Department. (g) Cooperation Department (h) Ministry of Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), (i) Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), (j) Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, or (k) Department of Bio Technology, Government of India, (l) Sikkim Organic Mission (SOM).

However, the Nodal Department or the PIA shall ensure before and during implementation of the scheme to replicate to overlap or disturb the progress or accountability of any of the ongoing schemes under implementation by the partner Departments or agencies.

- (iv) Coordination with TRIFED and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the purpose of the project, evaluation of overall program with TRIFED and implementing department.
- (v) To initiate and pursue proposals in the State Government for any collateral activities required for effective implementation of the Yojna in Sikkim.
- (vi) To make rules/additional working guidelines from time to time with the prior approval of the State Government.

2. Project Implementing Agency (Department)

The Department of Cooperation shall be the Project Implementing Department or Agency having responsibility to implement the PMVDVY as per Yojana guidelines.

The Department of Cooperation in Sikkim with its strong infrastructure at District level and micro infrastructure Multi Purpose Co-operative Societies (MPCS), Consumer Co-operative Societies (CCS) and other allied occupational cooperative societies strongly rooted in Gram and Ward Panchayat level coupled with long imbued administrative financial discipline and doing business for sustenance, is reckoned to play a pivotal catalytic and mentoring role to 15 others SHGs involved in the VDKV.

The Department of Co-operation has already achieved its target to set up one Multi Purpose Co-operative Societies (herein after referred to as MPCS) in each Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU). It has so far established more than 176 MPCS including several hundred Co-operative Societies for Consumers, marketing, manufacturers, farmers, poultry and Milk Producers, Contractors, labour, unemployed, etc and can boast of having more than 1,00,000

cooperative members. Thus, organizing VDVK under identified cluster with requisite number of members under the umbrella of MPCS is achievable. Similarly, having been regulated by financial discipline as per Co-operative Societies regulations, integrity and professionalism is another area of security concern for sustenance of the scheme.

3. Role of Project Implementing Agency (Department)

The role and responsibility of Project Implementing Agency (Department) will be as follows;

- (i) It shall play the pivotal role in implementing the scheme as per guidelines.
- (ii) Identification of cluster area, collection of data for setting Van Dhan Vikash Kendra (VDVK)
- (iii) Identification of Multi Purpose Cooperative Societies bearing good performing track records with no adverse history for leading the formation of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) with 14 (Fourteen) other societies or Self Help Groups (SHGs) etc. falling under identified cluster areas its jurisdiction or through amalgamation of similar other societies.
- (iv) Supervision and monitoring of field survey, data collection by VDK/MPCS.
- (v) Funds received from Nodal Department by the Project Implementing Department shall be released directly to the MPCS for onward transmission to SHG members/beneficiaries within 15 days from the date of receipt of fund from the nodal department.
- (vi) To co-ordinate with Nodal Department and TRIFED on targets and achievements of VDK; submit progress report, annual reports etc. mandated under the Yojna's guidelines shall be furnished directly in the online portal of the scheme recommended by the Project Funding Department at the centre and the copy of the same be addressed to the Nodal Department in both online and offline mode in hard copy.
- (vii) Organize training, workshops and awareness meetings at District, block & Panchayat level
- (viii) To assist field level implementing agencies i.e. MPCS in planning business strategy and annual audit of their books of account through departmental field officers, for internal control.

4. Co-Project Implementing Agency

- (a) The Sikkim Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes and Others Backward Community Corporation Limited (SABCCO), a financial institution established as a part of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) initiatives for channelizing funds has been identified as Co- Project Implementing Agency.
- (b) **Role of Sikkim Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes and Others Backward Community Cooperation Limited (SABCCO)**
 - (i) The Sikkim Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes and Other Backward Classes Development Corporation Limited (SABCCO) shall mentor the VDK Units.
 - (ii) Provide financial advisories and support to all the approved VDK units either under its own scheme or by linking with programmes or schemes of associated Departments of the Union(Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Food Processing, Ministry of Environment and Forests, etc) or State Government or other financial or

banking institutions towards strengthening business or production infrastructure or other business associated logistic needs.

5. (1) Project associated Line Departments

For achieving success towards desired goal of the scheme, administrative and logistics support from project associated line Departments comprises an important requirement for implementing the Yojna in Sikkim. List of project associated Departments are as under:

- (i) Forest Environment & Wildlife Management Department
- (ii) Rural Development Department
- (iii) Horticulture Department
- (iv) Agriculture Department
- (v) Social Justice & Welfare Department
- (vi) Commerce & Industries Department

(2) Role of Project Associated line Department

The Project associated Line Department shall provide logistic support required for implementation of the scheme including convergence of schemes, infrastructure wherever found necessary.

7. Mode of Implementation

- (1) PMVDVY shall be implemented in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- (2) The Project Implementing Department shall with the approval of the state Nodal Department have identified 80 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVK) from 4 districts of Sikkim State with its details as mentioned in clause 2 of this guidelines.
- (3) Registered Multi Purpose Cooperative Societies bearing good performing track records accompanied by no adverse history shall lead the formation of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) together with 14 (Fourteen) other societies or Self Help Groups (SHGs) duly ensuring compliance of norms on formation of VDKV prescribed in the PMVDVY guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- (4) The Nodal Department shall transfer fund to Project Implementing Department i.e. Department of Cooperation within 15 days from its receipt date. The Project Implementing Department should ensure to release the funds received from the Nodal Department to the VDKVs through MPCs within next 15 days from the date of receipt of funds as per scheme guidelines accompanied by covering letter giving details of directions and purpose indicated in the sanctioned order issued by the TRIFED or Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- (5) For the purpose of formation of VDKVs, SHGs under Gramin Ajivika Mission/ North East Rural Livelihood Project/National Rural Livelihoods Mission and such other individuals or tribal artists who are engaged or are potential in doing activities related to MFP, traditional arts and crafts of the State and value addition of agro horticultural or Forest produce in the State are targeted to be covered under the Yojna and their data base shall be maintained in the format developed by TRIFED in its user friendly web portal compatible for both computer or Mobile users for recording, tracking, monitoring and Video Conferencing.

(6) The Van Dhan Kendras would act as common facilities centers for procurement and value addition to locally available MFP items as may be identified by the District Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DLCMC) from time to time. Value addition of the MFP is expected to improve the economic health of tribal members in the SHG. The VDK can be formed in a contiguous area, preferably in same or amalgamation of nearby villages. Focus to cover at least 60%

Tribal population holistically at state level shall be maintained to fulfill the aspiration of Yojna while at the same time giving opportunity to other economically weak population hailing from other non tribal communities in the state. Preference shall be given on convergence with functional SHG's promoted under North East Rural Livelihood Project, National Livelihoods Mission, Joint Forest Management Committee, other local and traditional art and craftsman operating preferably in the same area or nearby villages/ GPU. Identified Mission SHG will continue to use their bank account for working capital requirements for the purpose of Van Dhan activities. One member from one household should be a member with the SHG's with preference to the women members. The identification of the group leaders shall be unanimously done by all members/groups/ for the establishment of VDK.

(7) The Project Implementing Agency shall undertake trainings/ workshop/ seminar etc. jointly with the Nodal Department to officers involved in the implementation of the project and to the leaders and members of cluster level project implementing agencies (MPCS and members of SHG's/ individuals) as and when required as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India and TRIFED.

(8) The third party monitoring the implementation of the scheme will be done through NABARD /DESME.

(9) Setting of Van Dhan Vikash Kendras will be done on cluster approach involving 15 groups in each Kendra and at unit level. The Van Dhan SHG's/ Groups shall be primarily responsible for collection and aggregation of MFP's and other forest produce from the nearby forest and villages and undertaking primary level value addition at SHG level.

Further, these SHGs shall store their raw materials and final product at godown of SHG or MPCS associated with it. These SHG's shall undertake processing/ value addition/ either at SHG premises or at MPCS godowns as per convenience and return the processed goods to MPCS godown for safe keep and further marketing. The SHG may also buy MFP from nearby areas out of their own fund and sell it to local Haat bazaar/ mandis with proper record keeping and accountability.

(10) SHGs shall contribute to the working capital expenses towards different activities for and on behalf of their members/MFP gatherers as also maintaining minimum standards of quality of the produce as laid down in the guidelines issued by the Government of India and State Agencies for taking of value addition and processing activities of the MFP's. The Van Dhan Vikash Kendra shall be supported with following facilities/ components:

- (a) Infrastructure support
- (b) Primary processing equipments/tool kits, etc.
- (c) Training to SHG members and other MFP collectors/ artisans in groups.
- (d) Arrangements for MSP and working capital for Van Dhan Vikash Kendra/SHG through Government and financial institutions.

(11) For each VDVK, identified MPSCS Limited bearing good performing records with no adverse history shall act as a catalyst, mentor and common facility institution for the remaining 15 SHGs through signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the group and thereby, assign following common duties & responsibilities:

- a) To facilitate storage and transportation (on rental basis) on behalf of the SHGs for the MFPs, raw material, art and crafts and the processed products.
- b) To facilitate linkage with state agencies/department and with secondary processing units/factories, local and distance market for sell of produce.
- c) The Kendras may also enter into tie-ups with NGOs and other marketing institutions in the state and with TRIFED on defined terms as may be required.
- d) The Kendras may be guided by State Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee, District Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee, Nodal Department and Project Implementing Department on strategic decisions relating to training of SHGs members, skill up gradation, setting standards of the produces for value addition, branding and marketing.

(12) For sustaining PMVDVY initiative in Sikkim, greater priority will be accorded on market centric and entrepreneurial approach based on local conditions, livelihood & prospect of entrepreneurial adaptability by local community and economy.

This notification is issued as operational guidelines with the approval of the Government to facilitate implementation of PMVDVY in the state of Sikkim as per principal guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

**CHIEF SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

